



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

Monday, February 27, 2006
Carla Vigue, Communications Officer, (608) 266-5862

For Immediate Release

THIRTEEN COUNTY CONSORTIUM RECEIVES \$100,000 FAMILY CARE GRANT
Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, Juneau, Marquette, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Sauk, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, and Waushara Counties to Build Long Term Care Partnership

BEAVER DAM— The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services today awarded a \$100,000 grant to a thirteen county partnership in south central and eastern Wisconsin to develop a plan to expand the successful Family Care program that gives seniors and people with disabilities the choice to get long term care in their own homes and communities as an alternative to nursing home care. Last month, Governor Jim Doyle unveiled plans in his annual State of the State address to expand the Family Care program statewide within 5 years.

“Seniors and people with disabilities overwhelmingly prefer home and community care options to nursing homes when possible,” said Helene Nelson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. “Family Care has proven people can get the long-term care they need and prefer, and that this can save money for taxpayers by helping people stay healthy and independent.”

Secretary Nelson is in Beaver Dam today to award \$100,000 to the Family Partnership Care Management Coalition, a partnership that involves thirteen counties and five private organizations: Columbia, Dodge, Green Lake, Jefferson, Juneau, Marquette, Manitowoc, Ozaukee, Sauk, Sheboygan, Washington, Waukesha, and Waushara counties and Community Care Inc., Community Living Alliance, Inc., Elder Care of Wisconsin, Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc., and the Management Group, Inc. This new organization will develop a regional framework to provide Family Care to people in the area, capitalizing on the experience of Fond du Lac and Richland counties which operate successful Family Care care management organizations.

The \$100,000 grant is the eight in a series of grants, totaling \$1.4 million, that Governor Doyle and Secretary Nelson will award to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide and eliminating waiting lists for community-based long term care. While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

There are currently a total of 2,259 people in the thirteen-county area on a waiting list for community care.

Family Care is a successful pilot program in five counties in Wisconsin including: Fond du Lac, LaCrosse, Milwaukee, Portage and Richland counties. A recent evaluation of Family Care found that it saved an average of \$452 per person per month in total Medical Assistance expenditures in the four non-Milwaukee counties during 2003 and 2004. It did so by helping people stay healthy and more independent in their homes and communities. Family Care also saved money in Milwaukee.

- END -

Wisconsin.gov